



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY OF CHICAGO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Small Business Funding Approved for North, Northwest Side Business Districts**

The City's Small Business Improvement Fund (SBIF) will be renewed in three Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts under a plan approved today by City Council.

SBIF helps owners of commercial and industrial properties to repair or remodel their facilities through grants up to \$150,000. The plan will reallocate \$750,000 for SBIF grants in the Lawrence/Pulaski TIF district, \$500,000 in the Lincoln Avenue TIF district and \$250,000 in the Jefferson Park TIF district.

SBIF grants cover a range of building improvements including HVAC systems, masonry, facades, handicap accessibility, interior renovations, and other upgrades. The assistance is provided upon project completion and does not have to be repaid.

The SBIF program operates in 94 of the City's 144 TIF districts, which provide financing for local redevelopment and public improvement projects within their boundaries.

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**Three Dog Parks Approved for South Side Neighborhoods**

Three dog parks will be created in Oakland and Grand Boulevard through plans approved today by City Council.

The land for each quarter-acre dog park will be transferred for \$1 by the City to the Chicago Park District, which will manage each site. Each location will be improved with synthetic turf, landscaping, lighting, fencing, benches, water fountains, and other amenities through \$1.8 million in Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and \$92,000 in Open Space Impact Fees (OSIF).

"Dedicated park spaces like these are a great way for dogs and their owners to interact together," said Alderman Pat Dowell. "They'll be a welcome addition to the community."

“Dog parks are an important facet of improving the quality of life for our residents” said Alderman Sophia King, 4th Ward. “They bring residents together, promote positive loitering and make communities safer all while making dogs happier. Thanks to the commitment and determination of our constituents and the support of Mayor Emanuel and my colleague Alderman Dowell, I am proud to expand recreation options on the south side to include our pets.”

The sites include:

- 3906 S. Lake Park Ave.
- 3838-40 S. Indiana Ave.
- 4149-53 S. Vincennes Ave.

The OSIF program collects fees associated with the construction of new residential projects to apply to the open space needs of surrounding neighborhoods.

# # #

### **Park and Garden Projects Approved for South Side**

Financial measures approved today by City Council will create and expand five existing and planned City open spaces.

#### **Dunbar Park, 300 E. 31st St.**

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) assistance in the amount of \$1.4 million will support the construction of a combination soccer, football field and running track at Dunbar Park in Douglas. The artificial turf field will be used by community residents and students of the adjacent Dunbar Vocational High School. It will replace an existing athletic field at the north end of the 20-acre park. The balance of the \$2.2 million project will be funded by \$100,000 grants each from the U.S. Soccer Federation and Take the Field, a \$73,000 State grant, and \$503,000 from the Chicago Park District.

The OSIF program collects fees associated with the construction of new residential projects to apply to the open space needs of surrounding neighborhoods.

#### **McKinley Park Play Garden, 3518-28 S. Wolcott Ave.**

McKinley Park Play Garden will receive approximately \$121,000 in OSIF for the installation of a play stage, mud kitchen, play hut, gravel pit, barefoot walk, prairie maze, dry river bed, and other amenities. The balance of the \$194,000 project will be paid through a \$12,500 in-kind donation from Site Design Group Ltd. and private donations. The project’s first phase included the acquisition of the 0.36-acre site and the addition of landscaping by NeighborSpace, which will ensure and maintain the site for use by local residents.

#### **Park No. 573, 701 E. 114th St.**

Park No. 573 in Pullman will receive \$28,000 in OSIF to provide water access for local gardeners. The balance of the \$125,000 budget will be paid by the Chicago Park District.

#### **Park No. 587, 658 E. 95th St.**

Park No. 587 will be partly funded with approximately \$74,000 in OSIF. The funding will pay for the

installation of landscaping, perimeter fencing, lighting and benches on the .11-acre property. The balance of the \$123,000 project will be paid by the Park District.

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### **TIF Assistance Approved for Canal Street Reconstruction and New Public Plazas**

The reconstruction of a portion of the Canal Street viaduct in the West Loop will include two new plazas for public use, under a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) plan approved today by City Council.

The \$18 million project between Van Buren and Harrison streets will replace the 40-year-old viaduct with a new bridge deck, support columns, expansion joints and abutment repairs. The underutilized, eastern portion of the Canal right-of-way, adjacent to Chicago's Old Post Office, will be improved with public amenities north and south of the Eisenhower Expressway (I-290).

Construction work will be completed by 601W Cos., which is conducting a \$600 million rehabilitation of the Old Post office as offices and retail space. 601W Cos. will maintain the plazas for 50 years, as part of the agreement.

The project will be entirely funded by TIF. Construction will start this fall and last approximately two years.

The Canal viaduct has multiple sections between Madison and Taylor streets. Additional repairs will include the section between Jackson Boulevard and Van Buren.

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